

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ROBERT L. RANSOM,

Plaintiff,

v.

K. SPINELLI, et al.,

Defendants.

No. 2:25-cv-0531 AC P

ORDER SETTING SETTLEMENT  
CONFERENCE

Plaintiff is a state prisoner proceeding pro se with a civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1983. The court has determined that this case will benefit from a settlement conference. Therefore, this case will be referred to Magistrate Judge Sean C. Riordan to conduct a settlement conference at the California State Prison, Sacramento, 100 Prison Road, Represa, CA 95671 on July 28, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. The court will issue any necessary transportation order in due course. In accordance with the above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. This case is set for a settlement conference before Magistrate Judge Sean C. Riordan on July 28, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at California State Prison, Sacramento.

2. Parties are instructed to have a principal with full settlement authority present at the Settlement Conference or to be fully authorized to settle the matter on any terms. The individual with full authority to settle must also have “unfettered discretion and authority” to change the settlement position of the party, if appropriate. The purpose behind requiring the attendance of a

1 person with full settlement authority is that the parties' view of the case may be altered during the  
 2 face-to-face conference. An authorization to settle for a limited dollar amount or sum certain can  
 3 be found not to comply with the requirement of full authority to settle.<sup>1</sup>

4 3. Parties are directed to submit confidential settlement statements no later than July 14,  
 5 2025, to [SCRorders@caed.uscourts.gov](mailto:SCRorders@caed.uscourts.gov). Plaintiff shall mail his confidential settlement statement  
 6 to U.S. District Court, 501 I Street, Suite 4-200, Sacramento, California 95814 "**Attn: Magistrate**  
 7 **Judge Sean C. Riordan**" so it arrives no later than July 14, 2025. The envelope shall be marked  
 8 "CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT STATEMENT." Parties are also directed to file a "Notice of  
 9 Submission of Confidential Settlement Statement." See L.R. 270(d). Parties are encouraged to  
 10 share their settlement conference statement with the opposing party but are also invited to submit  
 11 a confidential statement to Judge Riordan.

12 Settlement statements **should not be filed** with the Clerk of the Court **nor served on any**  
 13 **other party**. Settlement statements shall be clearly marked "confidential" with the date and time  
 14 of the settlement conference indicated prominently thereon.

15 The confidential settlement statement shall be **no longer than five pages** in length, typed  
 16 or neatly printed, and include the following:

- 17 a. A brief statement of the facts, legal claims, relief sought, and defenses.

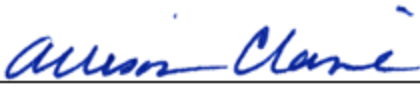
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 19 <sup>1</sup> While the exercise of its authority is subject to abuse of discretion review, "the district court has  
 20 the authority to order parties, including the federal government, to participate in mandatory  
 21 settlement conferences." United States v. United States District Court for the Northern Mariana  
 22 Islands, 694 F.3d 1051, 1053, 1057, 1059 (9th Cir. 2012) ("the district court has broad authority  
 23 to compel participation in mandatory settlement conference[s]"). The term "full authority to  
 24 settle" means that the individuals attending the mediation conference must be authorized to fully  
 25 explore settlement options and to agree at that time to any settlement terms acceptable to the  
 26 parties. G. Heileman Brewing Co., Inc. v. Joseph Oat Corp., 871 F.2d 648, 653 (7th Cir. 1989),  
 27 cited with approval in Official Airline Guides, Inc. v. Goss, 6 F.3d 1385, 1396 (9th Cir. 1993).  
 28 The individual with full authority to settle must also have "unfettered discretion and authority" to  
 change the settlement position of the party, if appropriate. Pitman v. Brinker Int'l, Inc., 216  
 F.R.D. 481, 485-86 (D. Ariz. 2003), amended on recon. in part, Pitman v. Brinker Int'l, Inc.,  
 2003 WL 23353478 (D. Ariz. 2003). The purpose behind requiring the attendance of a person  
 with full settlement authority is that the parties' view of the case may be altered during the face to  
 face conference. Pitman, 216 F.R.D. at 486. An authorization to settle for a limited dollar  
 amount or sum certain can be found not to comply with the requirement of full authority to settle.  
Nick v. Morgan's Foods, Inc., 270 F.3d 590, 596-97 (8th Cir. 2001).

- b. A summary of court proceedings to date and upcoming court proceedings, including summary judgment deadlines and whether there is a scheduled trial date.
- c. Discovery status.
- d. An estimate of the cost and time needed to complete fact and expert discovery, pretrial preparation, and trial.
- e. Any settlement discussions (informal or formal) that have already occurred.
- f. Any related cases or other cases involving the same or similar parties.
- g. Any impediments to settlement.
- h. Any other information the party thinks would help facilitate settlement.
- i. Multi-page exhibits must be internally paginated, with the pagination for each exhibit beginning at one (1) (for example, Exh. A-1, Exh. A-2, etc.).

4. The Clerk of the Court is directed to serve a copy of this order on the Litigation Office at SAC via fax at (916) 294-3072 or via email.

DATED: June 23, 2025

  
ALLISON CLAIRE  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE